

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed July 9, 2004. At the time of the Office Action, Claims 1-9 were pending in this Application. Claims 10-20 were previously cancelled due to an election/restriction requirement. Claims 1-9 were rejected. Independent Claim 1 has been amended to further define various features of Applicants' invention. Claims 3 and 5 have been canceled. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-9 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite and failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Applicants amend Claim 1 to overcome these rejections and respectfully request full allowance of Claim 1 as amended.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-6 and 9 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by International Patent WO 00/63980 filed by Rudolf Heinz ("Heinz"). Applicants respectfully traverse and submit that Heinz does not teach the current invention now claimed. Claim 1 now requires a single system comprising a conductor track having a width which changes over its length. The conductor track of Heinz is of a single width and does not change over its width -- see Figures 1-9. Consequently, it is respectfully submitted that amended Claim 1 is allowable over Heinz and favorable action is requested. Claims 2, 4, 6, and 9 depend from amended Claim 1 and it is respectfully submitted said claims are patentably distinct over Heinz for the same reasons stated for amended Claim 1. Applicants request favorable action in relation to these claims. Claims 3 and 5 have been cancelled.

Claims 1, 2 and 6-9 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,104,129 issued to Yasuhiro Okamoto ("Okamoto"). Applicants respectfully traverse and submit Okamoto does not teach or disclose the present invention as now claimed in amended Claim 1. Okamoto, it is respectfully submitted, does not disclose or

teach a conductor track having a width that varies over its length. Consequently, Applicant submits Claims 1, 2, and 6-9 are in condition for allowance and requests favorable action.

Claims 21-23 have been added to more particularly claim an embodiment of the invention. Claim 21 is directed to contact system for a piezoelectric component comprising more than one "connecting elements" and a "single conductor track" wherein the "connecting elements" are comprised of a "single structured flexible foil" and the width of the conductor track changes over its length. It is respectfully submitted that neither Heinz nor Okamoto teach, disclose, or suggest either alone or in combination the invention as now claimed in new Claim 21. Favorable action is requested.

Claim 22 has been submitted to more distinctly claim an embodiment of the invention. Claim 22 claims a contact element for a piezoelectric component comprising "multiple connecting elements" which are "comprised of a single structural flexible component" that is adapted to be connected via a contacting zone wherein during operation of the piezoelectric component, relatively no movement occurs. Neither Heinz nor Okamoto teaches or suggests this system and favorable action is requested. Claim 23 is submitted dependent on claims in 22. Claims 22 and 23 are in condition for allowance.

ATTORNEY DOCKET
071308.0485

PATENT APPLICATION
10/696,690

6

CONCLUSION

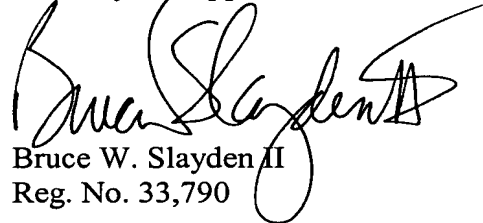
Applicants have now made an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance in light of the amendments and remarks set forth above. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of Claims 1, 2, 4, and 6-9 as amended and new claims 21-23.

Applicants believe there are no fees due at this time, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees to Deposit Account No. 50-2148 of Baker Botts L.L.P. in order to effectuate this filing.

If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicants' attorney at 512.322.2606.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
Attorney for Applicants



Bruce W. Slayden II
Reg. No. 33,790

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:
Baker Botts L.L.P.
CUSTOMER ACCOUNT NO. 31625
512.322.2606
512.322.8306 (fax)

Date: 10/8/2004